

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for ~~enabling perception of~~
~~sending~~ a video clip in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:
~~storing~~ storing, on a host ~~system one or more~~ system, a collection of video clips; ~~clips~~
~~available to be sent to instant message recipients in instant messaging communications sessions;~~
~~establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message~~
~~sender and an instant message recipient;~~
~~providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on~~
~~the host system;~~
~~receiving~~ receiving, at the host system, a request ~~at the host system~~ from the instant
message sender for a selected particular video clip from among the collection of video clips
stored on the host system to be delivered to ~~[[an]] the instant messaging participant system;~~
~~message recipient;~~
~~in response to receiving the request from the instant message sender for the particular~~
~~video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient, sending a video clip identifier~~
~~corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message recipient;~~
~~after sending the video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the~~
~~instant message recipient, receiving, from the instant message recipient, a request for the~~
~~particular video clip;~~
~~in response to receiving the request for the particular video clip, accessing the selected~~
~~particular~~ video clip from the collection of video clips stored at the host system; ~~system~~ and
communicating the selected particular video clip from the host system to the instant messaging

~~participant system message recipient for rendering in an instant messaging application running on the instant messaging participant system.~~ rendering.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which receiving the request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient comprises receiving a request that is generated in response to a communication from ~~[[an]] the instant messaging message sender system to the instant messaging participant system.~~ message recipient.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which receiving the request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient comprises receiving ~~[[an]] the identifier enabling identification of corresponding to the selected particular video clip.~~

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which receiving the identifier further comprises receiving an identifier comprising a location on the host system of the selected video clip.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the identifier further comprises a file name.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein receiving the identifier comprises receiving an identifier created for the selected video clip based upon the application of an algorithm to at least a portion of the selected video clip.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 in which receiving the identifier comprises receiving the identifier in response to a communication from ~~[[an]] the instant~~

~~messaging message~~ sender system to the instant ~~messaging participant system~~. message recipient.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the host comprises a server authorized as a partner to an instant messaging host.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing one or more still photographs and a sound track.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing an animation sequence.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing one or more video clips configured to expire upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the predetermined event comprises passage of a predetermined length of time or the passage of a predetermined date.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the predetermined event comprises a predetermined number of uses.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
determining whether [[the]] a video clip has expired, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has expired.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether [[the]] a video clip has been banned, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has been banned.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which determining whether the video clip has been banned comprises determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a report by a user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which determining whether the video clip has been banned comprises determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a violation of a term of a service agreement.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ comprising:
determining whether the ~~selected~~ particular video clip is an official item; and
displaying the ~~selected~~ particular video clip if the video clip is an official item.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:
storing the collection of video clips on the host system comprises ~~storing~~ storing, on the host system system, one or more video clips associated with ~~[[an]]~~ the instant messaging application operator; and
~~receiving the request comprises receiving the request at the host system for a selected video clip to be delivered to an instant messaging participant system, the video clip being selected by the instant messaging application operator.~~ message sender.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ receiving comprising:
~~receiving~~ receiving, at the host system system, one or more additional video clips from ~~[[an]] the instant messaging sender system.~~ message sender for sending to instant message recipients during subsequent instant messaging communications sessions; and

in response to receiving the one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender, adding the one or more additional video clips to the collection of video clips stored on the host system.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining capabilities of the instant ~~messaging participant~~ recipient at the host system, and in which accessing the ~~selected~~ particular video clip comprises determining an appropriate version from one or more versions of the ~~selected~~ particular video clip based upon the determined capabilities and accessing the appropriate version of the ~~selected~~ particular video clip.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22 in which determining capabilities comprises determining a data connection speed of the instant ~~messaging participant system; message recipient.~~

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22 wherein determining capabilities comprises identifying hardware associated with the instant ~~messaging participant system; message recipient.~~

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22 wherein determining capabilities comprises identifying software associated with the instant ~~messaging participant system; message sender.~~

26. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for enabling perception of a video clip in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

rendering, on an instant messaging recipient ~~system; system associated with an instant message recipient,~~ an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least [[an]] the instant message recipient and an instant message sender;

receiving [[a]] an instant message that includes a video clip identifier corresponding to a selected video clip to be displayed by the instant messaging recipient system, the video clip being having been selected by the instant message sender at an instant messaging sender system; as a video clip to be sent to the instant message recipient in the instant messaging communications session;

in response to receiving the instant message that includes the video clip identifier corresponding to the selected video clip, automatically accessing the selected video clip based on the video clip identifier; clip; and

rendering the ~~selected~~ accessed video clip at the instant messaging recipient system.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

storing storing, on a host system ~~one or more~~ system, a collection of video clips; clips available to be sent to instant message recipients in instant messaging communications sessions; establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient;

providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on the host system;

receiving receiving, at the host system, a request at the ~~host system~~ from the instant message sender for a ~~selected~~ particular video clip from among the collection of video clips stored on the host system to be delivered to [[an]] the instant messaging participant system; message recipient;

in response to receiving the request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient, sending a video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message recipient;

after sending the video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message recipient, receiving, from the instant message recipient, a request for the particular video clip;

in response to receiving the request for the particular video clip, accessing the selected particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored at the host system; system and communicating the selected particular video clip from the host system to the instant messaging participant system message recipient for rendering in an instant messaging application running on the instant messaging participant system. rendering.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for receiving the request ~~comprises~~ from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient comprise instructions for receiving a request that is generated in response to a communication from ~~[[an]] the instant messaging message sender system~~ to the instant ~~messaging participant system. message recipient.~~

30. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for receiving the request ~~comprises~~ from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient comprise instructions for receiving ~~[[an]] the identifier enabling identification of~~ corresponding to the selected particular video clip.

31. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 in which instructions for receiving the identifier further ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for receiving an identifier comprising a location on the host system of the selected video clip.

32. (Original) The computer program of claim 31 in which the identifier further comprises a file name.

33. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 wherein instructions for receiving the identifier ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for receiving an identifier created for the

selected video clip based upon the application of an algorithm to at least a portion of the selected video clip.

34. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 in which instructions for receiving the identifier ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for receiving the identifier in response to a communication from ~~[[an]] the instant messaging sender system~~ to the instant ~~messaging participant system.~~ message recipient.

35. (Original) The computer program of claim 27 in which the host system comprises a server authorized as a partner to an instant messaging host.

36. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for storing one or more still photographs and a sound track.

37. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for storing an animation sequence.

38. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for storing one or more video clips configured to expire upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

39. (Original) The computer program of claim 38 in which the predetermined event comprises passage of a predetermined length of time or the passage of a predetermined date.

40. (Original) The computer program of claim 38 in which the predetermined event comprises a predetermined number of uses.

41. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 38 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether ~~[[the]]~~ a video clip has expired, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has expired.

42. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether ~~[[the]]~~ a video clip has been banned, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has been banned.

43. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 42 in which instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a report by a user.

44. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 42 in which instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a violation of a term of a service agreement.

45. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether the ~~selected~~ particular video clip is an official item; and
displaying the ~~selected~~ particular video clip if the video clip is an official item.

46. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 wherein:
instructions for storing the collection of video clips on the host system ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for storing on the host system system, one or more video clips associated with ~~[[an]]~~ the instant ~~messaging application operator~~; and

~~instructions for receiving the request comprises instructions for receiving the request at the host system for a selected video clip to be delivered to an instant messaging participant system, the video clip being selected by an instant messaging~~ message sender.

47. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions ~~for receiving for:~~

receiving, at the host system system, one or more additional video clips from [[an]] the instant messaging sender system; message sender for sending to instant messaging recipients during subsequent instant messaging communications sessions; and

in response to receiving the one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender, adding the one or more additional video clips to the collection of video clips stored on the host system.

48. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for determining capabilities of the instant ~~messaging participant~~ message recipient at the host system, and in which instructions for accessing the ~~selected particular~~ video clip ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for determining an appropriate version from one or more versions of the ~~selected particular~~ video clip based upon the determined capabilities and accessing the appropriate version of the ~~selected particular~~ video clip.

49. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 46 in which instructions for determining capabilities ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for determining a data connection speed of the instant ~~messaging participant; message recipient.~~

50. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 46 wherein instructions for determining capabilities ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for identifying hardware associated with the instant ~~messaging participant; message recipient.~~

51. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 46 wherein instructions for determining capabilities ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions for identifying software associated with the instant ~~messaging participant~~; message recipient.

52. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

rendering, on an instant messaging recipient system, system associated with an instant message recipient, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least ~~[[an]]~~ the instant message recipient and an instant message sender;

receiving ~~[[a]]~~ an instant message that includes a video clip identifier corresponding to a selected video clip to be displayed by the instant messaging recipient system, the video clip ~~being having been~~ selected by the instant message sender ~~at an instant messaging sender system;~~ as a video clip to be sent to the instant message recipient in the instant messaging communications session;

in response to receiving the instant message that includes the video clip identifier corresponding to the selected video clip, automatically accessing the selected video clip ~~based on the video clip identifier;~~ clip; and

rendering the selected video clip at the instant messaging recipient system.

53. (New) The method of claim 1 in which providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on the host system comprises sending a list of the available video clips to the instant message sender.

54. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message sender to preview the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system;

in response to receiving the request to preview the particular video clip, accessing the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message sender for previewing, wherein receiving the a request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient occurs after the particular video clip has been sent to the instant message sender for previewing.

55. (New) The computer program of claim 27 in which the instructions for providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of available video clips comprise instructions for sending a list of the video clips stored on the host system to the instant message sender.

56. (New) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:
receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message sender to preview the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system;
in response to receiving the request to preview the particular video clip, accessing the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message sender for previewing, wherein receiving the a request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message recipient occurs after the particular video clip has been sent to the instant message sender for previewing.